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HUMANITARIANISM IN WARFARE.

Let us admit, imprimis, that war is a barbarous, wasteful and irrational means of determining disputes. Let us admit, further, that a universal pact of peace, binding all nations to disarm and cease from warring, and providing for the submission of disputes to a court of arbitration, would be the highest evidence and expression of real civilization (if such a pact would be kept by the parties thereto); but when these admissions are made, it must be admitted, also, however sadly, that war is still the last argument of kings, and an argument which kings and other potentates always have in mind, says the San Francisco Bulletin.

Now, war is nothing more than an attempt by hostile nations to defeat and coerce one another by fraud and physical force. The one object of a nation at war is to cripple and destroy the enemy; to sink the enemy's ships; to disable or capture the enemy's soldiers; to cut off the enemy's supplies of the necessities of life and of munitions of war; in short, to exhaust the enemy as thoroughly and as speedily as possible.

Humane people, not being able to abolish war, have endeavored persistently to mitigate the horrors of warfare. Through the exertions of such people divers congresses have been held at which the great powers have bound themselves to observe certain rules of warfare designated to diminish the suffering caused by warfare. For example, the powers have agreed not to employ poisoned bullets, because such bullets cause unnecessary pain and produce death when the purposes of the firing party would be amply accomplished by inflicting a clean and comparatively painless wound which would, nevertheless, place the wounded out of the combat. In fact, it is preferable merely to wound a hostile combatant rather than to kill him outright, for the enemy is rid of his dead, and may leave them on the field, but must take care of his wounded; and a long train of hospital wagons, loaded with disabled soldiers, is often a source of serious embarrassment to an army. The agreement to interdict the poisoned bullet and other missiles and weapons that merely bruise and tear and render death more certain, without doing to the combatant using them any real good that could not be effaced by less mortal and painful missiles and weapons is, therefore, reasonable and right. But the humanitarians, in their demands for further reforms of this kind, propose stipulations that would seriously impair the fighting power of particular nations. It has been suggested, for example, that submarine boats, torpedoes and mines be prohibited by international agreement. This proposition was very justly opposed by Great Britain and the United States for the reason that it would restrict invention and abolish very effective means of reducing the strength of an enemy. Since war is purely a trial of physical force, why should the nations agree to lessen their powers of debilitating a foe? If torpedoes should be abolished, why not rifles, gatling guns and swords?

War is essentially a lawless game. As General Sherman said, war is hell; that is, a state of anarchy. Nations do not go to war until diplomacy has failed and agreement has been found impossible. It is well enough for a nation in combat not to be wantonly cruel, but if cruelty will help a nation to win, it is very foolish to scruple at inflicting the direst tortures on the foe. The first duty of a nation at war is to defeat the enemy, and nothing should be permitted to stand in the way of that duty. In war, the end justifies the means.

It is terrible, of course, to think of a Japanese warship striking a mine and suddenly going down with all on board; but that is war. It is impossible to make war a parlor game; to render it merely a polite amusement. If it is possible to emasculate war, why is it not possible to abolish it completely?

The outcry against the Japanese and the Russians for employing torpedoes and submarine mines against each other is unreasonable. Those two nations are straining themselves in a fierce conflict of physical force. To expect them to refrain from using any serviceable weapon is about the same as to expect a man, fighting for his life, to keep one hand behind his back. Pugilists, matched for a purse, fight according to certain rules. They do

not kick each other because kicking is forbidden. But if a pugilist were to be attacked by robbers in the street, would he abide by Queensberry rules in meeting the attack? Would he hesitate to kick or bite if he felt himself in danger of being overcome by the robbers? War is not a match contest for the delectation of spectators, but a real fight for life in which rough-and-tumble methods bring victory.

THE PERIL OF THE ORIENT.

The United States was founded by refugees from the nations of Europe, who, when they had improved the new country sufficiently to make a living, turned their muscles to the promoting of those things most beneficial to civilization. With the coming of liberty the United States of America was ready for the coming of progress!

Japan at the time of Commodore Perry's visit, was an ancient nation. Her rulers were said to date from the beginning of the sun. She had peculiar customs, peculiar religion, peculiar modes of life, and she was hopelessly in the rear, so far as progress and modernism were concerned. In the few years that have passed since that time Japan has taken her place among the foremost nations of the world! She has taken to progress like a sick kitten to a brick! Today she has an army drilled in the latest tactics! She has in her navy some of the finest ships afloat! In diplomatic service she is not to be outdone! She has accomplished in a few years what it has taken England, France and Germany hundreds of years to do! She has advanced beyond Russia as a whole! She is thoroughly alive to her own interests and doesn't care who knows it! If there is a "yellow peril" it is not China with her countless hundreds of thousands of superstition-ridden inhabitants—it is little Japan with her mad for progress and her determination to make her mark among the nations of the earth and leave it there if she is doomed to oblivion. Japan has become a producer! For ages she has consumed the productions of other countries—now she is consuming her own productions. If Japan is successful in her war with Russia she will awaken to further progress and production, her fields will broaden, she will produce more than she consumes, she will look about for foreign fields of speculation, for foreign markets. Then will the civilized world know the full meaning of the yellow peril—but it will not be a peril of fire and sword, of rapine and brutality, but of competition in the fields of lawful and legitimate trade, in commercial lines, in every phase of modern industry. What we have to fear from Japan is not her prowess in war—it is her prowess in peace!

THE INNOCENT BYSTANDER.

It has happened again! When the militia fired on the mob in Colorado yesterday one man was killed—an innocent bystander! Thus say the press reports!

But was the man an innocent bystander? If a man lends his presence to a mob that is taking the law into its own hands, if he helps swell the number of a crowd that has no proper regard for human life, if he aids in a demonstration against the laws of the country, even so much as to be present when that demonstration is taking place, is he an innocent bystander?

A close estimation may show that half the mob were so-called "innocent bystanders." Perhaps the soldier who fired the fatal shot might be called an innocent bystander. Perhaps the governor whose stubbornness has caused the deaths of over an hundred miners might be called an innocent bystander! There are too many people with a disregard for all rule and law who pose under the name of innocent bystanders these days! The man who, out of pure curiosity, joins the mob on destruction bent, is not a bystander. And the man who is within range of the law-compelling guns of the militia is not innocent!

Careful observers of public sentiment and of the condition of affairs in Spain say that the kingdom of Alfonso is better off today than it was before the loss of its colonies and is gaining in many lines of development. It is said also that the general drift of opinion in Spain is that the country will have a brighter future without possessions beyond the seas. The Spanish temperament was never ideal for the government of alien peoples and subject races. That storied peninsula of southwestern Europe, with its picturesque and fascinating history, has within its borders latent treasures of amazing value. It may become prodigiously rich and populous again, as it was in former centuries. Americans wish it well.

Nine and one-half million people have emigrated from Great Britain and Ireland during the last fifty years. More than 5,000,000 of these were from England, less than 1,000,000 from Scotland and about 3,500,000 from Ireland. The emigration from the United Kingdom last year was 260,000, while less than 70,000 alien immigrants arrived in the kingdom, more than one-half of whom settled in London. Thirty thousand of the arrivals were Russians. There is much destitution among the alien immigrants arriving in Great Britain.

You can save time with the new postage stamp by sticking the letter up in the right-hand corner of it.

JUST FOR INSTANCE.

To the Show Band.
 Crimson coats and snow-white pants
 May hold the public in a trance;
 Blaring trumpets, rolling drums,
 Make us dance and hold our thumbs.
 But you're small pumpkins, all the same,
 For if you desire to see an Astoria crowd properly fanatic and reveling in unsophisticated delight, just watch them at a baseball game!
 The innocent bystander has got it again!

Extra! Extra!

Chefoo, June 7.—Refugees arriving from Dalny on a pile of junk report that a Jap ship was sunk off that port yesterday by striking a mine. Or, if it wasn't a Jap ship, it was either a Russian vessel or else an innocent merchant ship of some other nation. And if she wasn't sunk she was at least damaged, unless the man who saw her made a mistake—being about half blind. At any rate, there was a ship off Dalny—unless it was a mirage!

LI LI KHEL.

The I-told-you-sos are at it now!

That San Francisco druggist who gave the man a dose of carbolic acid for heartburn has an excellent idea of the properties of drugs all right, all right!

The people of Boston are taking the music cure. Wouldn't that make you dance rag-time?

The automobilists of New Jersey have banded together for mutual protection. Wouldn't that make you keep out of the road?

Help!
 (The author of this piece is protected by a gatling gun and a catcher's mask.)

Russia's got a little war,
 Also the Japanese—
 But when you take into consideration the fact that we have a little scrap of our own in Colorado, this unpleasantness in the Orient simply fails to cut the cheese!

The first man in the new city directory is Aasen, and the last is Zwilener. Hoch der Kaiser!

Just because some nosy government employe has discovered that there are streams in Alaska filled with salmon, it need not be taken for granted that Astoria will be wiped off the map! If they have a baby show at the regatta we want MISTER Hardesty to be a judge!

Anyone told you about that race for sheriff yet?

Huldy Jones—No; local option does not mean that the ministerial association will have an option on the newspaper locals!

By the way, the sun was out again yesterday!

The successful candidate with the huge stomach reminds us of an epicurean who has recovered from the gout and had his first square meal. Eh, Tom!

McCULLEY.

WEEKLY CROP REPORT.

Crops Are Doing Nicely in Oregon and California.

Washington, June 7.—The weather bureau's weekly summary of crop conditions says:

The Pacific coast experienced a favorable week, but in California nearly all crops were injured by continued drying north winds. On the North Pacific coast winter wheat has advanced favorably and is heading.

Vote and Registration.

The following statement shows the vote of the city precincts as compared with the registration:

Precinct—	Vote.	Registration.
No. 1.....	215	199
No. 2.....	229	233
No. 3.....	248	271
No. 4.....	289	276
No. 5.....	275	273
No. 6.....	187	190
No. 7.....	176	175
Totals.....	1619	1617

It has been stated that No. 2 precinct cast a majority for local option, and, as the Bowers votes there, the story created more or less amusement. As a matter of fact, No. 2 precinct cast 142 votes against local option and 52 for it.

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